

Written Testimony of:  
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Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee  
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Written Testimony of Stephan Hartmann, 15 Bridle Path Lane, Madison, CT 06443 concerning:  
Senate Bill 1, AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY POLICY AND FINANCE

My name is Stephan Hartmann and I live in Madison, Connecticut. I am a devoted employee of Ross Solar Group, LLC out of Brookfield, Connecticut, and a supporter of the PV industry in our State. I have designed and contracted dozens of successful residential and commercial PV system projects in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. I encourage the passage of Senate Bill 1, as it is critical to the development of green jobs and a cleaner environmental future within Connecticut.

I have been working in the PV industry for 2 years; 1.5 of those years have been heavily focused in New Jersey as the Connecticut PV market has been unreliable and inconsistent. This is the result of a "boom and bust" incentive structure. In these daunting economic times, it behooves those of us in the Solar PV industry to seek work in States that recognize and meet the demand for green energy solutions. This Bill is an opportunity for Connecticut to establish a long-term, stable platform upon which the renewable industry can build its future in an environmentally and economically sound way, bringing jobs back to Connecticut.

Connecticut is my home, but New Jersey has become my livelihood. The miles I travel in support of an industry with intentions aimed at reducing carbon emissions seems counterproductive. Additionally, the time I spend away from my friends and family generating work in other states, tempts me to either abandon my successful efforts within the NJ Solar PV market, or uproot and officially leave my home state of CT to immerse myself in a market with reliable foundations. CT residents deserve the opportunity to benefit from a proven industry welcomed by policy and an established future.

We at Ross Solar Group receive calls every day from potential employees passionate about migrating into the Solar Industry. Unsure of PV's future in CT, we wisely work with a skeleton crew, conservatively preparing for a long drought between PV sales. We are ready to hire (and train) more installers, salesman, designers and electricians if we believe we will find work to support them. This legislation will give the industry what it needs to move forward with such confidence.

Connecticut has the opportunity to take part in what has already proven to be a success in many other states. This Bill would put *our* State on a path to energy independence with a reduction in carbon emissions, abated grid demand, and an aggressively satisfied Renewable Portfolio Standard.

I appreciate your attention and concern in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephan Hartmann